[Translation]

Urea Scam

605. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT :
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state :

(a) the latest position of the investigation made in the Rs.133 crore urea scam;

(b) the names of countries and banks in which the scam money is deposited;

(c) whether Government are making efforts to get back this money and the steps taken so far in this direction;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a Bank Guarantee was furnished by the foreign firm as a security against the advanced payment of Rs. 133 crores;

(f) if so, the amount of Bank Guarantee and whether the said Bank Guarantee has been encashed; and

(g) if not, the kind of security taken from the foreign firm by the Government as a security for the advance payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) The irregularities in the matter relating to the contract signed by M/s. National Fertilisers Ltd. (NFL) for supply of 2 lakh metric tonnes of bagged urea are under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The CBI is engaged in conducting the investigation in India as also in various other countries.

(b) The amount involved was credited to the account held by M/s. Karsan Ltd. with Pictet Bank, Geneva, Switzerland.

(c) and (d). Government of Switzerland has been requested to freeze the amounts available in the account of M/s. Karsan Ltd. with Pictet Bank, Geneva and any other connected accounts. The Government of Switzerland has also been requested to seize the amount and repatriate the same to India.

(e) No. Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Instead of a Bank Guarantee issued by an international bank of repute outside India, M/s. Karsan Ltd. had offered to provide a first class Lloyds Insurance cover for non-performance and non-delivery of the contracted quantity of urea, which cover was eventually not provided.

[English]

Security to Former Prime Ministers

606. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons getting S.P.G. protection;

(b) whether the relatives of the former Prime Ministers are getting the protection of S.P.G.;

(c) the number of security persons deployed for the purpose; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred for providing S.P.G. protection during the years 1994, 1995 and 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) 29 protectees are entitled to SPG cover. Of these SPG protectees two are residing abroad and get the cover during their visits to India. Protection of four of such protectees will be taken over by SPG soon.

(b) As per the Act, only Prime Minister, former Prime Ministers and members of their immediate family which include spouse, children and parents get the SPG protection. No other relatives are entitled to SPG cover.

(c) 1188 persons have been deployed for active security duty of the SPG protectees. Besides, 1074 personnel are engaged in technical, communication, supervisory and other support services.

(d) Total expenditure incurred for providing SPG protection from 1994 to 96 is as follows :

1994-95	-	2404.87 lakhs.
1995-96	-	3289.56 lakhs
1996-97 (upto Oct. 96)	-	1715.93 lakhs.

Export of Wheat and Rice to Pakistan

607. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased ot state :

(a) whether Pakistan has requested the Government to supply wheat, rice and sugar in order to tide over the difficult food situation in that country this year;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal indicating the cost and quantity thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c). The High Commission for Pakistan in India had indicated Pakistan's interest in importing wheat and sugar from India and made certain enquries regarding specifications and other details. But, no formal request for supply of wheat, rice or sugar has been received. However, M/s. Indian Sugar & General Industry Export Import Corporation Ltd., which is the agency for

undertaking export of sugar under the provisions of Sugar Export Promotion Act, 1958 had participated in the tenders floated by Trading Corporation of Pakistan a Government of Pakistan undertaking and their tenders were accepted against which a quantity of 2.33 lakh tonnes of sugar was supplied to Pakistan. Besides this, a quantity of 31,342 tonnes of sugar has also so far been supplied by M/s. Indian Sugar & General Industry Export Import Corporation Ltd., against contracts entered into by them with private traders.

Forest Land for Devosam Board in Kerala

608. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Kerala has asked for providing adequate forest land for Davosam Board for the development of Sabarimala temple;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). The State Government of Kerala had earlier submitted a proposal under the forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 115.60 hectares of forest land in district Pathanamthitta for providing amenities to pilgrims of Sabarimala Temple. The proposed forest area formed part of Periyar Tiger Reserve. While the proposal was under process, the State Government in December, 1995 forwarded another proposal involving 20 hectares of forest land for the same purpose. The proposal was examined by the Ministry and also discussed with nodal officer, State Forest Department, Kerala, in May, 1996. As per the discussion held with the Nodal Officer, certain suggestions were made for the consideration of the Kerala State Government which include preparation of a master plan for the area already in possession of Travancore Devaswam Board in the main premises of temple to replace dilapidated structures with multi-storey structures and to explore the possibility of creating parking facilities at Plappalli, Nilackal and Rajanpara areas which have already been brought under plantation to avoid clearing of pristine natural forests in presently proposed Chakkayam area. In the absence of complete details from the State Government, the question of taking a final decision on the proposal does not arise.

[Translation]

Assistance/Loan to States

609. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the amount given to each state during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 as assistance and as loan by his Ministry, scheme-wise;

(b) the names of the States which have not fully utilized the amount during the said period;

(c) the details of unutilized amount with each State; and

(d) the reasons for non-utilization of this amount?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Non-Payment of Subsidy

610. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to non-clearance and non-payment of subsidy on fertilizers to small SSP units, Sarda Fertilizers of West Bengal and other SSP units have been closed or are facing closure, thereby throwing hundreds of employees to unemployment; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the government to make payments of subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b). Prices of all phosphatic fertilizers including Single Super Phosphate (SSP) have been decontrolled with effect from 25.8.92. All admissible claims of subsidy in respect of SSP units including M/s Sarda Fertilizers, for the period prior to 25.8.92 have been cleared and payments made.

Under the scheme of special concession on decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers being implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, payments are made on the basis of claims certified by the State Governments. An amount of Rs.6.99 lakh has been paid to M/s Sarda Fertilizers during 1996-97 as per the certified claims received.

Wildlife Week

611. SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the specific programmes and schemes launched during the wildlife week;

(b) whether any comparison of the wild life census figures especially with respect to endangered species was made and schemes launched to preserve and promble such species; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?